

XXVI.—Notes on some rare species of Animals found on the Coasts of Ireland. By JOHN SCOULER, M.D.

Thia polita.

THIS rare and interesting crustacean was figured and described by Dr. Leach in the 'Zoological Miscellany,' vol. ii. pl. 103, and since the time of that eminent naturalist I am not aware that it has been found on our shores by any British naturalist. In his account of the *Thia polita*, Dr. Leach does not give us any information as to the locality where it was found, which was however probably somewhere on the English coast, especially as Milne Edwards mentions that it is to be found on the opposite shores of France.

For the discovery of this species, which may be considered as an acquisition to the British as well as the Irish fauna, we are indebted to that acute and indefatigable observer Mr. William M'Calla, who has enriched the natural history of Ireland by the discovery of many species both of Algæ and Invertebrate animals. Among other rare Crustacea which we owe to him, I may mention the *Pisa tetraodon*, of which the Dublin Museum contains a fine series, and also the true *Portunus marmoreus*.

The *Thia polita* as well as the other species mentioned was found at Roundstone in Connemara, in a sandy bay at extreme low water, and as Mr. M'Calla remarks, it is similar in its habits to the *Corystes Cassivelaunus*.

Halichondria hispida.

Spongia hispida, Montagu, Wernerian Memoirs, vol. ii. pl. 5. fig. 1, 2.

I am not aware that any one has found this sponge since it was discovered by Montagu. About a year ago some very fine specimens were dredged from deep water at Roundstone by Mr. M'Calla, who took the precaution to preserve them in spirits, so that the character of the species can be satisfactorily ascertained. Both the figure and description of Montagu are very good, and leave little to be added: when moist it is very soft and gelatinous, and shrivels up a good deal in drying. The spiculæ are very long, and many of them projecting from the surface of the branches gives them the appearance expressed by the brevial name.

Tethya carnosa.

Halichondria carnosa, Johnston, Brit. Sponges, p. 146. pl. 13. fig. 7, 8.

This sponge has been excellently described by Dr. Johnston from specimens collected in Connemara by its discoverer Mr.

M'Calla. He observes that in habit and compactness of texture this sponge is a *Tethya*, and like the species of that genus it is covered by a distinct skin, but the disposition of the spiculæ is different, and there is no central nucleus. An additional supply of specimens preserved in spirits has enabled me to verify Dr. Johnston's conjecture, and to prove that this sponge should be removed to the genus *Tethya*.

When a longitudinal section of this sponge is made, it is seen to consist of three very distinct substances, an epidermis, a parenchyme, and a fibrous axis. The epidermis is very thin, of an olive colour, and not perforated by oscula; the greater part of the sponge consists of a pretty firm orange-coloured substance, permeated by tortuous canals; the axis is white, of a fibrous texture, and easily distinguished from the parenchyme by its colour and structure. From the presence of this fibrous axis, we think this sponge should be removed from the genus *Halichondria* to that of *Tethya*.

This species was originally found at Roundstone by Mr. M'Calla, and it appears to be a common species, for the same indefatigable observer has lately obtained specimens from Belfast Lough, where, as at Roundstone, it is associated with the *Halichondria ægagropila*.

XXVII.—*Characters of some undescribed species of Chalcidites.*

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[Continued from p. 115.]

13. *Encyrtus Cervius*, mas. *Cyaneo-viridis*, abdomine nigro, antennis pedibusque piceis, alis limpidis. (Corp. long. lin. $\frac{1}{2}$; alar. lin. 1.)

Body rather narrow, slightly pubescent: head and thorax bluish green, convex, squameous: head transverse, short, rather broader than the thorax; vertex broad; front abruptly declining, slightly impressed: eyes of moderate size, not prominent: ocelli disposed in a triangle on the vertex: antennæ piceous, subclavate, slender, inserted near the mouth, rather longer than the thorax; first joint long, slender; second long-cyathiform; the following joints from the third to the eighth successively though slightly increasing in breadth; club fusiform, more than twice the length of the eighth joint: thorax oval: prothorax transverse, short, narrow in front: scutum of the mesothorax broad; parapsides united to the scutum; axillæ complete; scutellum obconic: propodeon subquadrate, declining, of moderate size: podeon extremely short: abdomen elliptical, depressed, black, smooth, shining, much shorter and narrower than the thorax; metapodeon, octoon and ennaton of moderate size; the following segments very short: legs piceous; mesotibiæ and mesotarsi dilated, and